

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (currently amended): An isolated protein of the TGF- β family encoded by an isolated DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,
- (c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2,
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes ~~a portion of the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said portion is the mature protein~~ with amino acids 382-501 according to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The isolated protein as claimed in claim 30, wherein the protein has the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2, the mature part thereof or the mature part combined with the propeptide part of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one protein according to claim 30.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is suitable for the treatment of bone, cartilage or connective tissues or teeth.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A dental implant which contains the protein according to claim 30.

Claim 35 (currently amended): An isolated protein of the TGF- β family encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises the part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes the mature protein according to claim 30 and further comprises the part of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~nucleotide sequences~~ coding for at least one of signal peptide or propeptide.

Claim 36 (previously presented): An isolated protein of the TGF- β family encoded by a DNA molecule which comprises nucleotides 640-2142 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 32, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is suitable for applications in connection with angiogenesis.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one protein according to claim 30, wherein the protein is contained on and/or in a ~~natural or synthetically prepared~~ matrix material.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 38, wherein said matrix material is a biocompatible porous material that can be biologically degraded.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or filler.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A protein according to claim 30, wherein the protein is a dimer.